

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1709

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By Mr. Coughlin of Dedham, petition of Robert K. Coughlin relative to the appointing of veterans' agents and veterans' service officers. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO APPOINTING VETERANS' AGENTS AND VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICERS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 3 of Chapter 115 of the General Laws, as appearing in  
2 the 2000 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting the first  
3 paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
4 “The Mayor of each city, except Boston, and the selectmen of  
5 each town, shall appoint a veterans' agent/veterans' service  
6 officer to act for him or them in the disbursement of veterans'  
7 benefits by such city or town; provided, however, that in each  
8 town having a part-time veterans' agent/veterans' service officer,  
9 the town clerk shall receive applications and assist applicants for  
10 veterans' benefits, and shall submit said applications to the vet-  
11 erans' agent/veterans' service officer. Two or more contiguous  
12 towns may, by vote of the selectmen, and subject to the approval  
13 of the commissioner, appoint one full-time veterans' agent/vet-  
14 erans' service officer and such additional staff as necessary, and  
15 may apportion the payment of compensation among such towns.  
16 The appointment of a veterans' agent/veterans' service officer  
17 shall not create a civil service position. Any person who is  
18 appointed to the position of veterans' agent/veterans' service  
19 officer and certified by the Massachusetts Department of Vet-  
20 erans' Services as a trained veterans' agent/veterans' service  
21 officer and who has held such position for not less than three  
22 years, shall not be involuntarily separated and shall have the same

23 rights and protection granted to any veteran under section 9A of  
24 chapter 30 of the General Laws, notwithstanding that his or her  
25 prior appointments were for a fixed term.”